



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Missoula, MT*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

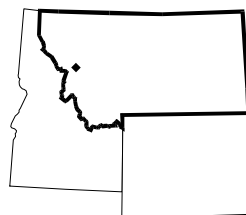
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 150 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Missoula for a Brownfields Pilot. Like many other communities throughout the northwest, Missoula's economy historically relied on the timber and mining industries. During the 1950s and 1960s, Missoula enjoyed great economic success. Within the last 20 years, however, the decline of the timber industry has resulted in massive job dislocation and abandonment of the city's timber processing facilities. Missoula's economy remains weak by national standards, and the city's poverty and unemployment rates are consistently higher than the national average.

As the largest city (population 51,200) in the Rocky Mountains, Missoula is entirely surrounded by mountainous terrain. The city's lack of available flat land has further impeded urban growth. The city's population increased nearly 20% from 1990 to 1996, and demands for land continue to increase. By focusing on its brownfields, Missoula hopes to return these idle properties to productive use and promote economic recovery for the city. The Pilot plans to develop and implement strategies that will lead to the cleanup and redevelopment of two large abandoned mill sites that total more than 100 acres. The White Pine Sash site is on the north side of town, and the Champion Intermountain Mill site is located along the

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Missoula, Montana*

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 1998

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets two large, abandoned mill sites in a city where available space for new and expanding industry is severely limited.

### Contacts:

Office of Planning and  
Grants  
City of Missoula  
(406) 523-4935

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 8  
(303) 312-6931

Visit the EPA Region 8 Brownfields web site at:  
[http://www.epa.gov/region08/html/  
brownf.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region08/html/brownf.htm)

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

south shore of the Clark Fork River. The threat of real and perceived contamination at these sites has affected adjacent neighborhoods, resulting in rapid residential turnover rates and low levels of property investment.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

## **OBJECTIVES**

To foster redevelopment, the Pilot will build on existing growth management strategies, economic development plans, and other community-wide policies and initiatives. The processes used to return the two targeted sites to productive use will serve as models for the redevelopment of other city brownfields. The Pilot will also help reduce any environmental health threats posed by the two targeted brownfields. The Pilot will address both the real and perceived environmental issues associated with each of the targeted sites through assessment, education, and outreach.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Completing a full inventory of brownfields sites throughout the area;
- Conducting environmental assessments, and preparing cleanup and redevelopment plans at each of the two targeted brownfields;
- Investigating and resolving existing barriers to cleanup of the two targeted brownfields;
- Using meetings, newsletters, and outreach materials to improve the effectiveness of the Stakeholder Working Group, which is working to develop public and private brownfields cleanup partnerships;
- Working with potentially responsible parties (PRPs) and stakeholders to identify costs, risks, and other obstacles preventing cleanup and redevelopment of the two targeted sites, and addressing those obstacles; and
- Expanding community participation to ensure that low-income residents living adjacent to the two brownfields are fully informed and actively participating in the decision-making process.